United Nations S/2003/1188

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 18 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the report on the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

03-67090 (E) 291203

Letter dated 18 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, I have the honour to submit herewith the report on the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated among the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael A. **Gaspar Martins**
Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group

Annex to the letter dated 18 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council

Report on the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

Introduction

The programme of work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, as established by the Angolan chairmanship for the period under review, was based on the following:

(a) Recommendations emanating from the public meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa held on 29 January 2002;

(b) Proposals made by the Ad Hoc Working Group under the chairmanship of Mauritius, contained in documents S/2002/979 and S/2002/1352;

(c) The terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Working Group, contained in document S/2002/207.

Mandate

Council members may recall the following mandate entrusted to the Ad Hoc Working Group under the terms of reference contained in document S/2002/207:

(a) To monitor the implementation of recommendations contained in S/PRST/2002/2 and previous presidential statements and resolutions regarding conflict prevention and resolution in Africa;

(b) To propose recommendations on the enhancement of cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with other United Nations agencies dealing with conflicts;

(c) To examine, in particular, regional and cross-conflict issues that affect the Council's work on African conflict prevention and resolution;

(d) To propose recommendations to the Security Council to enhance cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution between the United Nations and the African Union and subregional organizations.

Main activities carried out by the Ad Hoc Working Group

In conformity with the timetable for action established in April 2003, the activities set out by the Ad Hoc Working Group focused on achieving the following broad objectives:

(a) Enhancing cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Promoting confidence-building in the regions of Africa affected by conflicts;

(c) Enhancing the role of the Security Council in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa;

(d) Enhancing cooperation with the African Union as well as with subregional organizations in Africa.

Cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

In the framework of the cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, the Ad Hoc Working Group ensured that the question of Guinea-Bissau was kept under active review on both the agenda of the Working Group and that of the Security Council, in implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group contained in document S/2002/979.

In that connection, the Ad Hoc Working Group enhanced its working relationship and coordination with the Economic and Social Council Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, under the chairmanship of South Africa. In the same vein, the Working Group also established a relationship and coordinated efforts with the newly established Economic and Social Council Advisory Group on Burundi, chaired by South Africa.

Accordingly, the Ad Hoc Working Group held two joint meetings with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau and the group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau (chaired by the Gambia), prior to two Security Council meetings held on Guinea-Bissau. David Stephen, Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, and Alberic Kacou, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau, participated in those meetings.

The Ad Hoc Working Group's consistent position on the question of Guinea-Bissau was the need for that country to restore constitutional order through the organization of legislative elections and the need at the same time for the international community to take urgent steps to invest in the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau.

This position was a reaffirmation of the Economic and Social Council-endorsed partnership approach, as set out by its Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, on the basis of which the international community was expected to provide emergency assistance to the country, and in return the authorities would take measures to promote the rule of law and ensure political stability.

The Permanent Representative of Angola, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, or his designated representative, participated in meetings and videoconferences with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions organized by the Economic and Social Council Advisory Group;

Under the Angolan presidency of the Security Council for November, the Ad Hoc Working Group was instrumental in the convening of a private meeting of the Council on Guinea-Bissau on 18 November 2003. An important delegation led by the President of Guinea-Bissau, Henrique Pereira Rosa, addressed the Council as João Bernardo de Miranda, Minister for External Relations of Angola, presided.

The above-mentioned efforts of the Ad Hoc Working Group found expression in the following statement by the Secretary-General in his recent report on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Peace-

building Support Office "I am encouraged by the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa of the Security Council, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau of the Economic and Social Council and the group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau" (S/2003/1157, para. 30).

The Ad Hoc Working Group has consistently advocated that current experiences in cooperation in the case of Guinea-Bissau between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be extended to other post-conflict situations. In this connection, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group was invited by the President of the Economic and Social Council to participate in a mission to Burundi from 18 to 25 November 2003. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group designated a representative to take part in the mission.

Security Council missions to Africa

In accordance with the Ad Hoc Working Group's proposals for regular interaction between the Security Council and countries and subregions of Africa, aimed at exploring approaches to finding durable solutions to conflict situations, as well as promoting peace-building and addressing the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of those countries and regions, the Ad Hoc Working Group contributed to the decisions of the Security Council to undertake missions and was actively involved in the preparations for the Security Council mission undertaken during the period under review to the Central African region, in June 2003, as well as the joint mission of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to Guinea-Bissau from 26 to 28 June 2003.

Conflict prevention and resolution

The agenda of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the period under review continued to stress the need for the Security Council and the wider international community to give further impetus to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by enhancing the role of the United Nations and encouraging the parties to comply with their commitments.

In that regard, the Ad Hoc Working Group held a meeting in April 2003 to consider the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The meeting stressed the need for a firm and constant commitment of the Security Council to prevent the events in the Ituri region from having an adverse impact on the progress already made in the peace process. The meeting also observed that the international community could also play an enhanced and constructive role through the follow-up Committee of the Sun City Agreement. The Council should therefore be prepared, if the need arises, to assist the follow-up Committee, composed of the resident ambassadors to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and representatives of the permanent members of the Council, as well as those of Angola, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, Canada and Belgium.

On 30 May 2003, under the Pakistani presidency, the Security Council held a wrap-up meeting on the subject "Conflicts in Africa: Security Council missions and United Nations mechanisms to promote peace and security". The Permanent Representative of Angola addressed the meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group. Speaking on behalf of the Group, he underscored that the ad hoc working groups, if properly used, could be important tools in promoting peace and addressing the crises that afflict the African continent. This could be

made possible only if the work of the working groups were further enhanced by rendering their recommendations more pertinent to the work of the Security Council. He further indicated that working groups should consider establishing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination with sanctions committees, because experiences in Angola had shown that the imposition of sanctions had been an important tool in guaranteeing compliance with internationally accepted norms and resolving conflicts. The working groups should also make their recommendations more action-friendly for the United Nations system. Their effectiveness would depend on their capacity to focus on concrete situations, mobilize international support and provide advice and support for a timely response.

As reflected in the timetable for action, the matter of an international conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the African Great Lakes region was given due attention by the Security Council through the convening, on 20 November 2003, of a public briefing on the preparations for the international conference. Following that public meeting, the Ad Hoc Working Group convened a meeting with a cross-section of representatives of non-members of the Security Council. The participants had an interactive debate with Ibrahima Fall, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region and Keli Walubita, Special Envoy of the African Union Commission for the same region. Final remarks were made by Francisco Madeira, Minister of the Presidency for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Issues of Mozambique, representing the Presidency of the African Union.

The meeting was aimed at exchanging views and seeking clarification on various aspects of the preparatory processes for the conference, as well as mobilizing the international community for assistance for the conference. There was broad agreement that the assistance of the international community was pivotal for the overall success of the conference.

Cooperation between the United Nations and African Union and subregional organizations

In conformity with its mandate, the Ad Hoc Working Group undertook actions to enhance cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution between the United Nations and the African Union and subregional organizations.

In that connection, the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union in New York was consulted on and participated in the meetings of the Group. The chairmanship undertook contacts in February with the Political Department of the African Union Commission and the Central Organ of the African Union Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in Addis Ababa.

During those contacts, the chairmanship held meetings with Sam Ibok, African Union Director for Peace and Security, and Ki-Doulaye, acting Head of the African Union Conflict Management Centre. Both expressed the readiness of the African Union to work closely with the Group and the Security Council on all African issues. The indicative work programme on peace and security issues in Africa established for the Central Organ and the Commission of the African Union for the period 2002-2003 was circulated among the members of the Group.

With respect to the Ad Hoc Working Group's interaction with subregional organizations, the Group intends to organize a Security Council meeting on the importance of the cooperation between the United Nations and existing peace and security mechanisms of African subregional organization, with a view to developing integrated approaches to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building. The Group also intends to give greater attention to the issue of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement, which remains pending as part of the Group's timetable for action.

United Nations S/2003/1189

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 13 December 2003 by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the opening of the Loya Jirga in Kabul on 13 December 2003.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-67048 (E) 241203

Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 13 December 2003 by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the opening of the Loya Jirga in Kabul on 13 December 2003

The presidency, on behalf of the European Union, expresses it sincerest wishes for the successful outcome of the constitutional Loya Jirga in Afghanistan. The European Union hopes that the new constitution will be pluralistic and based on universal human rights, including equal rights for men and women.

The approval of the constitution — which represents a fundamental step in the peace process established by the Bonn Agreement — will also be the foundation of a future of peace and prosperity for the Afghan people. The European Union reconfirms its full commitment to that goal.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

United Nations S/2003/1190

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement concerning the capture of Saddam Hussein issued on 15 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations

03-67054 (E) 231203

Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning the capture of Saddam Hussein issued on 15 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the capture of Saddam Hussein as a crucial further step towards peace, stability and democracy in Iraq and in the region. He should now be judged in a fair trial, according to the rule of law, so that justice can be done.

The Union stresses the need, after this important development, for the political process in Iraq to move forward, with the widest popular participation, towards an accelerated transfer of sovereignty to a transitional Iraqi government and the establishment of conditions for economic and social reconstruction and development in the country.

United Nations S/2003/1191

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 16 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Somali national reconciliation process (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-67060 (E) 241203

Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 16 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Somali national reconciliation process

The European Union welcomes the decision of the International Authority on Development (IGAD) Facilitation Committee to convene a retreat of Somali leaders in Kenya in order to prepare the third and final phase of the Conference. It urges all Somali leaders party to the reconciliation process to participate constructively in the leaders meeting to bridge their differences and to reach an agreement on a viable government and a durable solution to the conflict in Somalia.

The European Union also welcomes the strong commitment to peace in Somalia of African leaders participating in the retreat, namely President Kibaki of Kenya, hosting the Conference, President Chissano of Mozambique, in his capacity of President of the African Union, President Museveni of Uganda, as IGAD Chairman, and Mr. Konare, President of the Commission of the African Union.

The European Union is convinced that any outcome of the national reconciliation conference which is not based on a broad-based and inclusive approach would risk aggravating the situation in Somalia and fuel new and more violent conflicts in the country. It therefore strongly urges all Somali leaders who have been unable to return to Kenya to do so without delay with a view to achieving a political settlement for the good of the Somali people.

The European Union commends the efforts of IGAD and its member States to provide new impetus to the peace negotiation, and reiterates its full and continuing support for the IGAD-sponsored national reconciliation process, which is the only sure path towards the restoration of effective government, peace and stability in Somalia.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

United Nations S/2003/1192

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter from my predecessor of 28 August 2002 (S/2002/968) and its annex, a report from the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has considered the report carefully with the assistance of its experts, and has written to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to set out its preliminary comments. UNMIK has been requested to provide a response in the form of a supplementary report by 15 March 2004.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-67186 (E) 080104

United Nations S/2003/1193

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter of 9 September 2002 (S/2002/1025) and its annex, transmitting a supplementary report from Serbia and Montenegro (at that time the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has considered the report carefully with the assistance of its experts, and has written to the Permanent Representative of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations to set out its preliminary comments. Serbia and Montenegro has been requested to provide a response in the form of a third report by 15 March 2004.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-67168 (E) 080104

United Nations S/2003/1194

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter of 20 March 2003 (S/2003/354) and its annex, transmitting the third report from Belarus submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has considered the report carefully with the assistance of its experts, and has written to the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations to set out its preliminary comments. Belarus has been requested to provide a response in the form of a fourth report by 15 March 2004.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-67174 (E) 080104

United Nations S/2003/1195

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter of 15 April 2003 (S/2003/493) and its annex, transmitting a supplementary report from Côte d'Ivoire submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has considered the report carefully with the assistance of its experts, and has written to the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations to set out its preliminary comments. Côte d'Ivoire has been requested to provide a response in the form of a third report by 15 March 2004.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-67180 (E) 080104

United Nations S/2003/1196

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué released by the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to the effect that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya meets all its obligations under treaties and conventions relating to the elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction. In this connection it has signed an Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Safeguards and is ready to receive the visits of inspection teams to verify its compliance with its commitments.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ali Abdussalam **Treky**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-67003 (E) 221203 221203

Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

In view of the international climate that prevailed during the Cold War and the tension that has gripped the Middle East region, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya called on the countries of the Middle East and Africa to make those regions a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Since there was no serious response to its appeal, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya tried to develop its defence capabilities.

During talks held between Libyan, United States and United Kingdom experts concerning the activities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in that field, the Libyan experts briefed their counterparts on materials, equipment and programmes, such as centrifuges and containers for transporting chemicals, that might be used to produce internationally banned weapons. Following those talks between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom, both permanent members of the Security Council, which is responsible for guaranteeing international peace and security, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya decided of its own free will to eliminate such materials, equipment and programmes, thus ridding itself of all internationally proscribed weapons.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has also decided to limit its missile activities to missiles with a range consistent with that agreed under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It will take such measures in a transparent manner that permits of verification, including immediate international monitoring.

Furthermore, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to reaffirm that it considers itself bound by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Agreement on Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Convention on Biological Weapons and that it accepts any other commitments, including the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in its belief that the arms race is conducive neither to its own security nor to that of the region and runs counter to its strong desire for a world blessed with security and peace, wishes, through this initiative, to encourage all countries without exception to follow its example, starting with those of the Middle East region.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will report thereon to the Security Council.

United Nations S/2003/1196*

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 December 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué released by the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's satisfaction of all its obligations under treaties and conventions relating to the elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction. In this connection the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has agreed to sign the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Safeguards and stated its readiness to receive the visits of inspection teams to verify its compliance with its commitments.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ali Abdussalam **Treky**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** An identical letter dated 19 December 2003 was addressed to the Secretary-General (see A/58/664).

03-67003* (E) 291203

Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

In view of the international climate that prevailed during the Cold War and the tension that has gripped the Middle East region, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya called on the countries of the Middle East and Africa to make those regions a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Since there was no serious response to its appeal, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya tried to develop its defence capabilities.

During talks held between Libyan, United States and United Kingdom experts concerning the activities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in that field, the Libyan experts briefed their counterparts on materials, equipment and programmes, such as centrifuges and containers for transporting chemicals, that might be used to produce internationally banned weapons. Following those talks between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom, both permanent members of the Security Council, which is responsible for guaranteeing international peace and security, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya decided of its own free will to eliminate such materials, equipment and programmes, thus ridding itself of all internationally proscribed weapons.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has also decided to limit its missile activities to missiles with a range consistent with that agreed under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It will take such measures in a transparent manner that permits of verification, including immediate international monitoring.

Furthermore, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to reaffirm that it considers itself bound by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Agreement on Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Convention on Biological Weapons and that it accepts any other commitments, including the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in its belief that the arms race is conducive neither to its own security nor to that of the region and runs counter to its strong desire for a world blessed with security and peace, wishes, through this initiative, to encourage all countries without exception to follow its example, starting with those of the Middle East region.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will report thereon to the Security Council.

United Nations S/2003/1197

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions, to forward herewith a copy of my final report on the work of the Group for the period 2002-2003, as adopted by consensus during our last meeting on 16 December 2003 (see annex).

May I add that the said report was presented to the Council today, 18 December 2003.

I will be most grateful if the report is circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Martin **Belinga-Eboutou**

03-67083 (E) 241203

Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Chairman of the Informal Working Group on General Issues established pursuant to the note of the President of the Security Council of 17 April 2000 (S/2000/319)

1. In the note dated 15 January 2002 by the President of the Security Council (S/2002/70), the Council agreed that I should serve as Chairman of the Council's Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions until 31 December 2003. My task was to lead the Working Group in its continuous effort to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions.

2. Under my chairmanship, the Working Group has held several formal and informal meetings, mainly in order to finalize its proposed outcome document, "Chairman's proposed outcome", presented by the former Chairman, Ambassador Chowdhury (Bangladesh), to the Security Council on 16 February 2001 as a document pending finalization.

3. The Chairman's proposed outcome constitutes a non-paper draft report based on the work of the Group since its establishment in April 2000. That document largely consists of a series of draft recommendations on how to improve sanctions design, administration and implementation. These recommendations concern the sanctions committees; the United Nations Secretariat; cooperation with international organizations; the imposition, suspension, lifting, monitoring, enforcement, assessment and evaluation of sanctions; humanitarian exemptions; targeted sanctions; assistance to States in implementation of sanctions; and the unintended impact of sanctions on third States.

4. During the last two years, the Working Group has discussed a number of complex issues contained in the mentioned document. With respect to procedure, the Group has debated the status of the outcome document; the acceptability of reopening issues contained in the document on which provisional consensus has already been reached; and the form in which it should be presented to the Council. As the Group agreed to work according to the principle that "nothing is agreed until all is agreed", all previous agreements reached on the text were considered to be of a provisional status only. On questions of substance, the Group discussed such issues as the degree of access to the sanctions committees by States affected by the unintended consequences of United Nations sanctions; assistance to third States affected by sanctions; the imposition of time limits on sanctions; the conditions for lifting sanctions; and the role of the Secretariat with respect to monitoring and implementing sanctions. In May 2002, the Group heard a detailed briefing by the assistant of its former Chairman, Ambassador Chowdhury, on the Chairman's proposed outcome drafted under his chairmanship. The briefing was very useful for the orientation of the new members of the Group since the initial document in question had gone through substantial changes through 10 extensive revisions. On that occasion, the representative of Bangladesh stressed that without political will no substantive progress in overcoming difficulties in the outcome document could be achieved.

5. During the last two years, the Working Group has made progress on several outstanding issues and succeeded in reaching provisional agreement with regard to the following proposals:

(a) The sanctions committees are to make their decisions available to Member States unless such a disclosure could harm the implementation of the sanctions;

(b) The sanctions committees will not consider majority voting with respect to procedural matters and humanitarian exemptions;

(c) The Security Council will, in all relevant cases, seek preassessment reports before the adoption of new sanctions regimes;

(d) The Security Council may also wish to consider improving monitoring arrangements in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of sanctions and to enhance the Council's efforts to investigate violations of sanctions;

(e) The Security Council may also wish to consider special representatives or fact-finding missions to assess the effects of sanctions on third States and identify possible ways of assisting those States.

6. When the Group's attempt to achieve further progress on the outcome document reached an impasse, a proposal was made at its meeting on 29 April 2003 to discuss the possibility of simultaneously holding meetings on thematic issues related to the outcome document with the possibility of inviting outside experts. No agreement materialized from those deliberations, mainly because some members felt that the Group's first priority should be the finalization of its recommendations document. In that connection, as Chairman of the Group, I strongly encouraged Group members to engage in bilateral consultations to achieve that goal. My assistant also conducted a number of informal discussions with those members of the Group who demonstrated serious interest in further improvement of the outcome document. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their interest and efforts to assist me as Chairman of the Group.

7. I must admit that despite all the efforts of my predecessor, Ambassador Chowdhury and members of the Working Group and my personal involvement, it has not yet been possible for the Group to conclude its considerations and to reach agreement on the outcome document because the Group is still unable to approve two interlinked provisions regarding the duration and termination of sanctions. While some members feel that sanctions should be established by the Security Council without any time limits and thus create the necessary pressure on the target to comply with the clear demands of the Council, most Members of the Group are convinced that the Council, when imposing sanctions, should always set time limits for their termination and evaluation of their effectiveness in order to avoid perpetuation of sanctions regimes that have not achieved their objectives. I view these differences, which have been preventing us from reaching a consensus for more than two years, as being more of a conceptual than of a specific language-oriented nature. This may explain why all efforts to bridge them by various proposed amendments have failed. I wish to take this opportunity to appeal again to the members of the Council to overcome these few remaining obstacles through a compromise, especially given that the Council, whenever it imposes a sanctions regime, is in no way restricted in making its decisions, especially not by decisions adopted at the level of its subsidiary body. As Chairman of one of the sanctions

committees, you are aware that although the number of sanctions committees has recently decreased their complexity is growing. As an example, I can cite the al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions committee. This should be taken into account in any future deliberations of the Working Group.

8. Sanctions remain an important tool available to the Security Council in achieving its objectives. We think that it is important for all the participants involved in the enforcement and implementation of sanctions (i.e., Member States, international organizations, civil societies, scholars and researchers) to reflect on sanctions policies. In that context, we wish to stress the relevance of the Interlaken, Bonn-Berlin and Stockholm processes concerning specific and general sanctions issues. Those three processes, initiated by the Governments of Switzerland, Germany and Sweden, have generated many useful ideas, which — if discussed, agreed upon and put into practice — could further fine-tune the use of sanctions as an instrument and contribute to their effective implementation. I believe that we would fail in our responsibilities if we did not continue our work in the area of general sanctions issues.

9. I am pleased that some recommendations of the draft outcome document are already implemented. Let me mention that sanctions committees now publish their reports and their chairmen frequently visit selective countries and regions. Furthermore, the Secretariat already maintains a database of outside experts who can be called upon to serve on monitoring bodies or assist sanctions committees. Also, the Secretariat maintains and updates web sites for the sanctions regimes, frequently accessed and used by Member States, mass media and other users. Therefore, I am convinced that additional effort is needed to finalize the outcome document, because once it is approved the sanctions committees and Member States may greatly benefit from it in their efforts to further improved United Nations sanctions.

10. I therefore propose to extend the current mandate of the Working Group for at least one more year so that the Group can continue its effort to find common ground with respect to the last few outstanding issues still under its active consideration and proceed with its necessary work to provide general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions.

United Nations S/2003/1198

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write with reference to the letter dated 11 December 2003 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Papua New Guinea, the Honourable Sir Rabbie L. Namaliu, addressed to me regarding developments in Bougainville and the request of his Government for a continued United Nations political presence on the island.

As is evident from the letter and the Council's consideration of the matter on 15 December 2003, the peace process in Bougainville continues to make slow but steady progress. In this connection, the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB), the mandate of which expires on 31 December 2003, has played a significant role. However, the process has not yet reached its logical conclusion, that is, the establishment of an autonomous government. In the light of this, and in accordance with the request of the Government of Papua New Guinea, supported also by the Bougainville parties, I intend, with the concurrence of the Council, to establish a small, follow-on United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) with the following functions:

(a) Chair the Peace Process Consultative Committee, which will consult with the parties on the peace process in general, and make preparations for elections, in particular;

(b) Report on the security and the subsequent destruction of the contained weapons;

(c) Monitor the constitutional process leading to the adoption of the Bougainville Constitution;

(d) In accordance with the amended Constitution of Papua New Guinea, and if requested by any of the parties, verify and certify substantial compliance by the parties in the hand ng in of weapons and whether the level of security is conducive to the holding of elections;

(e) Perform other good offices, as appropriate, or when requested to do so by the parties.

Given the strong commitment of the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville leaders to the Peace Agreement, UNOMB should finish the residual tasks of UNPOB and support the efforts of the parties in the transitional period leading to the elections. The Observer Mission, comprising a Head of

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Mission, one political adviser and two support staff, would be established for a six-month period. Its staffing structure and a modified mandate are expected to result in substantial savings of resources, compared to UNPOB.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

United Nations S/2003/1199

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 23 December 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 19 December 2003 (S/2003/1198) concerning your intention to establish a small United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) for a six-month period to replace the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB) the mandate of which expires on 31 December 2003, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of your intention, as well as the functions and the staffing structure of UNOMB, as indicated in your letter.

(*Signed*) Stefan **Tafrov**
President of the Security Council

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United Nations S/2003/1200

Security Council

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24 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 22 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the attached letter, which I sent to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities prepared following the latest report (S/2003/1070) of the Monitoring Group established pursuant to resolution 1363 (2001) (see annex).

In the light of the primary importance the Italian Government attaches to the matter, I would be extremely grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council to ensure full, effective and transparent implementation of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1390 (2002) and 1455 (2003).

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 4 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)

Upon instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith an aide-memoire concerning the reactions of the competent Italian authorities to the report recently presented by the Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001), which is assisting the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**

Enclosure

Aide-memoire

- Youssef Nada and the Nasreddin Company have been the subject of a judicial inquiry, headed by Milan's Prosecutor's Office, that has had far-reaching internal and international reverberations. The investigations have dealt a serious blow to groups associated with international terrorist organizations and led to numerous arrests and other types of judicial actions.

- After Nada and the Nasreddin Company were included in the Taliban and Al-Qaida lists published by the Sanctions Committee, their financial assets were frozen in accordance with EC Regulation 881(2202).

- In a ruling of 26 June 2003, the Italian Committee for Financial Security rejected an appeal filed by Youssef Nada to lift the freeze on his assets on the grounds of SCR 1455 (humanitarian exceptions).

- Seizure of property is carried out independently by judicial authorities on the basis of a discretionary ruling on the relevance of such property to the commission of crimes under investigation.

- The inclusion of non-financial assets among those subject to seizure in the execution of internal measures — pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 and subsequent resolutions — is still an open question in all the countries of the European Union. This became clear in discussions held by the FATF and more recently during the Seminar on the Financing of Terrorism in Brussels on 7 November 2003 organized by the Italian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission.

- Nonetheless, to further attest to our country's commitment to addressing and resolving such problems, new ad hoc legislation is currently being drafted.

- Despite Nada's free access to his assets, and in lieu of measures for their seizure, profits derived from potential transactions using these assets are, in the final analysis, subject to seizure.

- With regard to the Monitoring Group's interest in properties located in Campione d'Italia, the competent Italian authorities have repeatedly expressed their willingness to receive a mission from the Monitoring Group in Italy and to provide the Group with all the information in their possession.

- Italy's cooperation with the Sanctions Committee established by SCR 1267 and with the Monitoring Group is tried and true, as recently confirmed by its invitation to Mr. Michel Chandler to participate in the meeting of the COTER Working Group in Brussels on 7 October 2003. At the meeting, issues of common interest were discussed and concrete proposals were made by the Italian Presidency of the European Union on behalf of COTER to forge a more effective partnership with the Sanctions Committee and the Monitoring Group. On that occasion, on the initiative of the Italian Presidency, Mr. Chandler met with the RELEX Working Group in its capacity as Sanctions Committee for the European Union.

- The 10 November presentation of the fourth proposal for the insertion of individuals and entities on the consolidated list approved by the Sanctions

Committee against the Taliban and Al-Qaida further demonstrates Italy's categorical commitment to implementing the relevant United Nations resolutions. It also confirms that our Government's general strategy against terrorism is a pillar of the European Union Presidency programme in this sector. The United Nations and its organs are the central element of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

- In Italy all of the Nada and Nasreddin companies indicated in the report are subject to a freezing of their assets and of all their business through financial and insurance intermediaries. The freeze thus covers not only bank accounts but also any financial or insurance activity (funds, deposits, policies, etc.).

- The interpretive note approved by FATF in Stockholm on 1-3 October 2003, regarding the special recommendations (freezing and confiscating terrorist assets) makes a clear distinction between freezing, seizing and confiscating. Freezing involves a ban on transferring, converting, deposing of or shifting funds and other assets, on the basis and for the duration of an action undertaken by a competent authority or by a court through a freezing mechanism. The frozen funds and assets are still the property of the persons or entities that have an interest in them at the time of the freezing, and they can continue to be managed by the financial institution or other system identified by such persons or entities before the beginning of the freeze. Italy has achieved the goal of freezing resources other than funds (i.e., preventing real estate and company property from being transformed into liquid funds that can easily be transferred to terrorists), since all receipts of a certain size deriving from the disposal or simple use of such properties has to be channelled through financial institutions and thus falls under existing measures to freeze capital.

- The Italian judicial authorities handling the Nada and Nasreddin case are awaiting information from the Swiss that is indispensable to supporting the adoption of seizure measures and later the confiscation of the properties at issue.

- The Swiss request to the Sanctions Committee to unfreeze some assets (a request that led to the Committee's learning of the existence of properties and businesses in Italy) was never forwarded to Italy, not even for the sake of information.

- As indicated above, the report refers to the inquiry conducted in Italy that discovered the contested elements. It does not mention, however, that Italy was never invited to collaborate with Monitoring Group activities by providing information and/or clarification.

Italy must thus reiterate its surprise at the observations contained in the "Business Entities, Shell Companies and Offshore Trusts" section of the Monitoring Group's report, addressed to a country, Italy, which has demonstrated its indisputable commitment to the fulfilment of the pertinent United Nations resolutions and of the counter-terrorism strategy that makes the United Nations the central element of international cooperation on this issue.

Pursuant to the current demarche, Italy expects that the Monitoring Group's report will reflect the real situation rather than the specious interpretations of the Monitoring Group.

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Twentieth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1492 (2003) of 18 July 2003, in which the Council approved my recommendation for adjusting the drawdown plan of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and requested me to report at regular intervals on each phase of the drawdown and on the progress made with respect to the benchmarks that should guide the withdrawal of the Mission. The report describes the progress accomplished in implementing phase 3 of the Mission's withdrawal and provides an assessment of the security situation and implementation of the benchmarks.

II. Implementation of the drawdown plan

2. It may be recalled that under the modified drawdown plan for the military component of UNAMSIL, which was approved by the Security Council in resolution 1492 (2003), phase 3 of UNAMSIL's withdrawal would have to be implemented in four stages. As was indicated in my last report (S/2003/863), dated 5 September 2003, the first stage of that phase was completed in August 2003 with the withdrawal of a Nigerian battalion from Makeni and Kamakwie in Sector Centre, which reduced the Mission's troop strength to 12,311. In the second stage, a Bangladeshi battalion was scheduled to be withdrawn from Sector Centre in November. However, the relocation of that battalion was accelerated because of the requirement to transfer it to Liberia to reinforce the United Nations Mission in Liberia. The battalion was re-deployed to Monrovia in October 2003.

3. The third stage of phase 3 began in December 2003 and is expected to be completed in June 2004. This stage envisages the complete drawdown of the United Nations troops from Sector Centre with the repatriation of the Sector headquarters staff and the remaining Bangladeshi battalion, as well as the Bangladeshi medical unit. A Nepalese battalion currently deployed in Sector Centre will be relocated to Sector West. At the end of this stage, in June 2004, the area currently covered by Sector Centre will be completely under the responsibility of Sierra Leone security agencies, while UNAMSIL's troop strength will be reduced to 10,500 and the Mission's deployment structure will be reconfigured into only two Sectors, East and West. Since this will be the first time that UNAMSIL has handed over security

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responsibility for such a large area to Sierra Leone security agencies, it will be important to execute this stage with particular caution. As at 15 December 2003, the Mission's troop strength stood at 11,528.

4. Beyond June 2004, the modified drawdown plan foresees the withdrawal of 5,500 troops from September to October 2004, which would leave the Mission's troop strength at approximately 5,000. The remaining 5,000 troops would be repatriated by the end of December 2004. However, as indicated in my eighteenth report, before the implementation of those last stages begins, it will be essential to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the benchmarks and the progress made in consolidating peace and stability in Sierra Leone, with a view to determining whether further adjustments to the withdrawal plan will be required. To that end, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations — in close consultation with other United Nations stakeholders involved — has been instructed to conduct such an assessment, on the basis of which I would present appropriate recommendations to the Security Council in my March 2004 report.

III. Security situation

5. During the reporting period, the overall political and security situation in Sierra Leone has remained generally stable. UNAMSIL and the Government of Sierra Leone have continued to conduct joint regular evaluations of the security environment within the framework of the National Security Council Coordinating Group, which brings together representatives of Sierra Leone's security sector, UNAMSIL and the International Military Advisory Training Team (IMATT). During the period under review the group held weekly meetings.

6. In assessing the overall security situation, special attention has been paid to areas vacated by UNAMSIL troops, the areas along the border with Liberia, the diamond-mining areas and Freetown and its environs. Since the Mission's drawdown was launched in September 2002, UNAMSIL troops have withdrawn from a number of strategically important areas and handed them over to the Sierra Leone police. However, UNAMSIL military observers, as well as civilian police, civil affairs and human rights officers have continued to maintain a presence in those areas to support and monitor the performance of Sierra Leone security agencies and local administration. Local security committees comprising senior members of the national police, the army and the civil service have been established at the provincial and district levels in order to identify security threats and to coordinate appropriate responses.

7. UNAMSIL continues to work closely with the security committees and conducts frequent joint exercises with the police and the army. The Mission intends to gradually reduce its visibility as the capacity of the local security agencies and the provincial and district security committees increases. To date, the areas vacated by UNAMSIL have remained stable. However, the high unemployment rate among the youth and ex-combatants who have not yet benefited from reintegration programmes represent challenges that have political and security implications. Additionally, the main potential security threat in Sector Centre is the presence of the former Civil Defence Force (CDF), which has maintained its structures in some areas.

8. In addition, an internment camp accommodating elements of the former Armed Forces of Liberia and of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy who sought refuge in Sierra Leone is located in this Sector. It is hoped that these elements will be repatriated as the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme in Liberia gathers momentum.

9. At the same time, the areas along the border with Liberia also remain a significant security challenge, in part because of the presence of Sierra Leonean ex-combatants who are reported to be concentrating in certain areas on the Liberian side of the border. According to reports, some of these combatants have started infiltrating back into Sierra Leone. In anticipation of this development, in October 2003 UNAMSIL and the Government of Sierra Leone launched Operation Blue Vigilance, which is aimed at gathering information on the crossing points used by illegally returning combatants and conducting joint air and land patrols. Similar patrolling in the far northern part of the country also increased, with a view to identifying reported crossing points in the Kailahun salient. Thus far, 37 sites (most of them crossable only by foot) have been identified.

10. With regard to the main diamond-producing areas, particularly at Tongo and Koidu, UNAMSIL estimates that approximately 50 per cent of all mining activities are being conducted without Government-issued licences. UNAMSIL military observers are currently engaged in an extensive survey to identify illegal sites.

IV. Implementation of benchmarks

11. As indicated in my previous reports, progress in strengthening the capacity of Sierra Leone's police and army to take over national security responsibilities from UNAMSIL constitutes a key security benchmark that guides the drawdown of the Mission. Other important benchmarks that are crucial for minimizing security threats and consolidating the peace include completion of the reintegration of former combatants, consolidation of State authority throughout the country, progress in regulating diamond mining and progress towards resolving the conflict in Liberia.

A. Strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone police

12. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1436 (2002) of 24 September 2002, UNAMSIL has been focusing its efforts on assisting the Government of Sierra Leone in the recruitment and training of the Sierra Leone police, in cooperation with police from the Commonwealth. To reach this goal, UNAMSIL is also implementing joint projects with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other partners aimed at rehabilitating police stations and enhancing the capacity of the Police Training School in Hastings. However, the responsibility of rehabilitating and expanding the police infrastructure and equipping the police force rests with the Sierra Leone Government, with the support of donor countries.

13. Currently, there are 121 United Nations civilian police officers deployed to UNAMSIL. The deployment of additional mentors is under way, which will help in creating new national police divisions. The recruitment of additional United Nations trainers has also been recommended in order to improve training capacity, both at the Hastings Police Training School and at three regional training centres.

14. The training programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone police are ongoing. During the reporting period, some 1,000 candidates passed selection tests and are now awaiting entry into the Hastings Police Training School. In the meantime, 200 new recruits graduated on 27 November 2003, bringing the total number of recruits integrated into the police force in 2003 to almost 600.

15. Apart from training new recruits, UNAMSIL also continues to assist the Sierra Leone police to enhance its policing standards, notably in the fields of human rights, police ethics, the rights of women and children and the handling of suspects. In this regard, it should be noted that there has been a remarkable reduction in cases of violence against detainees by police officers. Furthermore, the civilian police have also extended their training of the Sierra Leone police in areas of cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization, family support, criminal intelligence and investigation, drugs, commercial crime, forensics, traffic management, airport security and diamond-mining monitoring. Fifteen police manuals have been produced by the civilian police for the Sierra Leone police to support the mentoring process.

16. The construction of additional barracks for cadets, funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), is expected to be complete by March 2004. Upon their completion, the Hastings Police Training School will be in a position to accommodate 600 trainees at a time. The overall priority will remain to bring police strength to the target figure of 9,500 by end of 2005. At the same time, leadership courses for police sergeants and inspectors, supported by UNDP, have started in Makeni and Kenema. Approximately 500 officers will undergo training in these courses during 2004.

17. While the deployment of the Sierra Leone police to areas vacated by UNAMSIL is gathering pace, it hinges on the availability of infrastructure, particularly police stations and barracks. These infrastructure elements became particularly critical in the deployment of police throughout the country. So far, means of communication and transport have been provided primarily by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also, UNDP has allocated $500,000 to the construction of barracks in the strategic districts of Kono and Kailahun. Without additional resources, the ability of the Sierra Leone police to effectively assume its security responsibilities following the withdrawal of UNAMSIL may be compromised.

B. Strengthening the capacity of the armed forces

18. With invaluable assistance from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the building of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) has continued to make good progress. The adjustment of the force from the current 14,000 to 10,500 troops is on track, and the first group of 1,000 soldiers is expected to be discharged by 31 January 2004. The Government is also making concerted efforts to improve on the current officer/soldier ratio. While the increase in officer recruitment will reduce the numerical shortfall in officer manning, further efforts will be required to improve RSLAF levels of professionalism. In 2004 some 120 junior officers will attend a staff course run by IMATT, from which the best 60 students will be selected to attend a junior staff training course in Ghana, with the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland bearing the costs. Also, a new military academy was recently opened in Freetown, where various training programmes will be organized.

19. At the same time, the RSLAF effort to address the shortage of barracks is gathering momentum. The majority of the new barrack sites have been cleared and the building construction is under way. The project, which is being jointly funded by the Sierra Leone Government and DFID, is due to be completed by June 2004. UNAMSIL continues to provide assistance with the movement of materiel and equipment for this vital activity. However, the availability of the necessary resources will be a critical factor for the delivery of the project on time.

20. The lamentable state of the RSLAF vehicle fleet and the shortage of communication equipment have continued to seriously hinder the operations of the force, especially in the Sierra Leone-Liberia border areas, where a third of RSLAF troops are deployed. In the procurement programme for 2004, there are plans to purchase 20 new trucks. Nonetheless, considerable additional resources will be critically needed.

C. Consolidation of State authority

21. There has been further progress in the consolidation of State authority throughout the country, as more Governmental officials establish their presence at the provincial and district levels. The recent deployment to Kailahun district of government officials is a particularly welcome development given the likely revival of cross-border trade with Liberia.

22. The Ministries of Local Government and Community Development, of Health, of Education and of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs are now represented in all districts, while the Ministries of Energy and Power and of Works and Housing remain to be deployed outside provincial headquarters towns. The newly established Ministry of Youth and Sports is also deployed in most districts. All district officers now have functioning offices with communication facilities. Notwithstanding the progress made in ensuring the return of most district officials, their effective functioning remains inadequate, due mainly to lack of logistics, infrastructure and trained staff. The election of district councils in May 2004 should contribute to the further strengthening of local government.

23. Further progress has also been made in the extension of the judiciary throughout the country, including the rehabilitation and construction of courts and penitentiary facilities. The High Court began hearings in Kono district on 4 November 2003, for the first time in more than eight years. Magistrate courts also continue sitting in all 12 districts. However, effective restoration of the rule of law and speedy dispensation of justice continue to be impeded by serious resource constraints, particularly the lack of magistrates and adequately trained court officials. UNDP and other donors, in particular DFID, are providing support to address the capacity constraints of the justice sector.

24. The draft legislation on local government reform and decentralization, which is intended to pave the way for the holding of municipal, town and district elections in May 2004, has been reviewed by the Government and placed before the Parliament for adoption. The Government and donors have committed funds for voter education

and a nationwide voter registration exercise, which has been slated for February 2004. Given the long absence of local government administration in the country, an extensive voter education programme will be an essential element of the process.

25. On 5 November the National Electoral Commission forwarded a letter to the Secretary-General requesting United Nations assistance in the organization and conduct of the May 2004 elections. As it did in its request for the May 2002 general elections, the National Electoral Commission has asked for UNAMSIL's technical (public information and communications) and logistical (storage and transport of elections materials) assistance. UNAMSIL would also be expected to assist the process by deploying civilian police and other Mission elements throughout the country during the electoral preparations. In early December 2003 the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs dispatched an electoral needs-assessment mission to Sierra Leone to determine the scope and requirements of such assistance.

26. While having much in common with the May 2002 general elections, the 2004 local elections will be in some respects a more complicated exercise. The main difference between the current request for assistance and the electoral assistance provided in 2002 is the lack of international electoral observation for 2004. The following tasks are thus recommended to be assumed by UNAMSIL within its existing mandate and assets: (a) logistical support in the form of transportation and storage of electoral materials and personnel, including the use of air assets to and from centres inaccessible by road; (b) the use of UNAMSIL radio and other communications facilities in the provinces; (c) the provision of security and deterrence within the framework of the UNAMSIL mandate; (d) advising and supporting the Sierra Leone police on electoral matters; (e) the establishment of a small electoral unit; and (f) support for the National Electoral Commission in implementing and disseminating civic education and public information programmes.

D. Reintegration of ex-combatants

27. The Government of Sierra Leone has maintained 31 December 2003 as the date for the completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for ex-combatants. The National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration provided the following statistics concerning the delivery of reintegration opportunities to ex-combatants: of 56,751 ex-combatants registered for inclusion in the programme, 32,892 had completed their training and 15,322 were still in programmes. Of the other 8,537, the National Committee estimated the remaining caseload to be 4,500. A small number of ex-combatants are believed to be returning from Liberia or Côte d'Ivoire. Overall, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme being near completion, the National Committee plans to complete its liquidation by March 2004. By that time about 52,000 ex-combatants will have benefited from reintegration projects. However, since social reintegration is an open-ended process, support for a wider, community-based reintegration programme is being taken up by various agencies, including the National Commission for Social Action, DFID, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP and other development agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations.

28. In collaboration with UNDP, the interim National Commission on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons continues to implement the community Arms for Development programme, supported by the Sierra Leone police and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The programme promotes the goal of establishing weapon-free communities in Sierra Leone and also focuses on the implications of the critical issue of cross-border movement of small arms and light weapons.

E. Restoration of Government control over diamond mining

29. During the reporting period, the Government made further progress in reasserting its control over diamond mining. The number of diamond-mining licences issued by the Sierra Leone Government to date has reached more than 1,800, compared with 900 by June 2002. Industrial-scale diamond mining has resumed in Kono district, with the Branch Energy Mining Company starting its production operation in November 2003. The Government has continued to channel funds obtained from mining licences to chiefdoms to encourage their economic recovery. Official exports of diamonds in 2003 reached $65 million at the end of October 2003.

30. Notwithstanding the progress made, illicit mining and smuggling of diamonds still persist. However, the Government has now begun taking steps to curb illegal possession and smuggling by adopting punitive measures against offenders. The National Mines and Minerals Act of 1994 has also been amended to enforce strict penalties for illicit possession and smuggling of diamonds. In addition, a core mineral policy has been reviewed by the cabinet and presented to the Parliament. UNAMSIL and other partners, in particular DFID, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank, will continue to encourage and support Government efforts to enhance the national benefits derived from the diamond industry.

V. Human rights, national reconciliation and justice

A. Monitoring and promoting human rights

31. During the reporting period, UNAMSIL continued its human rights monitoring activities, including by visiting police detention cells and prisons and observing court proceedings. UNAMSIL has also assisted with the preparation of draft legislation for the establishment of a national human rights commission, in close collaboration with civil society organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was submitted to the Government on 29 September.

32. In the meantime, the lack of judicial action on certain major cases persists. There has been no headway made in the trials of the West Side Boys and former Revolutionary United Front members who were arrested in 2000. The same holds true for the 17 individuals arrested and detained in connection with the Wellington Barracks incident of January this year, with the exception of one detainee who has been indicted by the Special Court after being transferred to its jurisdiction.

B. Protection of children

33. During the period under review, UNAMSIL and UNICEF continued to support the Government of Sierra Leone in its efforts to strengthen the protection of vulnerable children. More than 3,000 of the registered child ex-combatants and separated children are enrolled in school. Efforts are under way to ensure access for Sierra Leonean child ex-combatants associated with the Liberian fighting forces to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme there. With the assistance of UNAMSIL, the Government has developed guidelines for addressing the problem of street children. The Government has also prohibited child labour in the diamond mines.

34. A strategy for integrating the protection of children's activities has been developed for every component of UNAMSIL, in particular its military contingents, military observers and civilian police. Some contingents have been implementing their own plans of action for child protection, which include support activities benefiting children. The Voice of Children radio project, hosted by Radio UNAMSIL, is producing 12 radio programmes by and for children. The preparations for the handover of this initiative to local stakeholders are ongoing.

C. Gender issues

35. During the reporting period, the Mission has continued to mainstream gender and women's rights in all its activities. Although awareness on the rights of women and girls is being raised, some serious barriers still impede the successful prosecution of gender-related violence. These barriers range from the continued demand for victims to pay fees in order to obtain medical reports in alleged cases of rape to the frequent adjournment of cases. UNAMSIL urged the police and the courts to treat domestic violence as a crime and to expedite actions for their prosecution.

D. HIV/AIDS

36. During the period under review, UNAMSIL continued to actively raise awareness among its military and civilian personnel on the impact of the HIV/AIDS, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000. UNAMSIL, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Population Fund also participated in a joint survey on knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and practice in connection with HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, gender and human rights issues among UNAMSIL peacekeepers, which was conducted in September 2003.

E. Truth and Reconciliation Commission

37. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been granted an extension of its mandate until the end 2003. It is expected to present a report on its activities to President Kabbah in early 2004. The Commission has also continued its efforts to arrange public hearings of Special Court indictees, particularly of the former Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Hinga Norman. It appealed the negative decision

on the matter taken by the presiding judge of the Trial Chamber, Judge Bankole Thompson. Consequently, the President of the Special Court, Judge Geoffrey Robertson, overturned the negative ruling and rendered a decision that would allow Hinga Norman to testify in a sworn affidavit before the Commission. The decision also enables the indictees to be interviewed by Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in confidential sessions.

F. Special Court

38. During the reporting period, the Special Court continued with pre-trial hearings for the nine individuals indicted for war crimes. The Prosecutor has submitted motions seeking to join the existing cases into two combined indictments, namely, of the Revolutionary United Front/Armed Forces Revolutionary Council grouping and the CDF grouping. The motion in this regard was heard in the first week of December. Also, the Appeals Chamber sat from 31 October to 6 November to hear appeals of some of the indictments. Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has challenged the Court on the grounds of "sovereign immunity" and extraterritoriality. Others whose appeals were heard included Hinga Norman, Augustine Gbao, Morris Kallon and Moinina Fofana. They have challenged the constitutionality of the Court, upholding the legitimacy of the amnesty granted them under the Lomé Peace Agreement.

39. Meanwhile, the construction of the Court building has begun and is expected to be completed by March 2004. However, this does not prevent the Trial Chamber from commencing trials before then at the temporary accommodation. UNAMSIL has continued to provide essential security as well as logistical support to the Court on a cost-reimbursable basis. At present two platoons of UNAMSIL troops are stationed at the Court's premises and provide security, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone police and RSLAF. At the same time, Radio UNAMSIL continues to make airtime available to the Court on a weekly basis.

VI. Humanitarian issues

40. In the last six months there have been no significant influxes of refugees into Sierra Leone from Liberia, and the number of Liberians seeking refuge in Sierra Leone has remained relatively unchanged, at about 67,000. A total of 55,600 of them are accommodated in eight camps, and a further 8,300 are in urban areas, while 3,100 remain in the border regions. Since the stabilization of the situation in Liberia, a very small number of refugees have returned home. In the meantime, contingency arrangements to face a possible influx of returnees into Sierra Leone are in place.

41. The repatriation of the 40,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who continue to reside in the subregion recommenced at the end of October with flights from Abidjan and Ghana, and flights from other countries within the West African subregion will start in December 2003. Road repatriation from Guinea recommenced in November 2003, and repatriation operations through Kailahun will begin in December. It is hoped that up to 5,000 Sierra Leoneans will return before the end of 2003. Repatriation operations from Guinea and Liberia will continue throughout the first six months of 2004.

42. The United Nations Transitional Appeal for Relief and Recovery in Sierra Leone in 2004 was launched in Dublin on 19 November 2003. It comprises three joint programmes aimed at meeting both emergency relief needs and immediate recovery requirements in 2004: supporting Liberian refugees and host communities; voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leoneans; and community-based recovery, focusing only on areas yet to benefit from current recovery efforts. A total of $62 million to meet these objectives will be required.

VII. Recovery and development efforts

43. During the period under review, the National Recovery Committee held meetings in Kenema, Kono and Bonthe districts; all districts except Tonkolili have now been reviewed. The meetings have helped prioritize needs, channel assistance and bring government action to the district level, thus paving the way towards decentralization. Regular assessments of progress on the benchmarks agreed at the November 2002 Consultative Group meeting are also undertaken in meetings of the Development Partnership Committee, chaired by the Vice-President. Recent meetings of the Committee have discussed the national security framework, the justice sector, education, non-governmental organization policy and energy and power. These meetings have helped to focus attention on longer-term structural problems and are proving to be a useful mechanism to prepare for the post-UNAMSIL transition.

44. Sierra Leone's economic performance maintained the positive trend noted in previous reports. Available data for the first half of 2003 indicate that the real gross domestic product programme target of 6.5 per cent is likely to be achieved. The momentum for output growth is coming largely from a broad recovery in agricultural output, growth in diamond production, a modest increase in manufacturing output and expansion in construction activities, in both the public and the private sectors. In the agricultural sector, rice output reached 78 per cent of its pre-war levels, resulting from a 47 per cent increase in area planted in rice combined with an aggressive seed distribution programme that saw 144,000 farmers receive 5,772 tons of seed rice. Other food crops, such as cassava, sweet potatoes and groundnuts, also experienced strong recovery in 2003. At the same time, officially recorded diamond output almost doubled to 251,300 carats, from 136,400 carats in the first half of 2002. Arrangements for and negotiations on the resumption of the production of other key minerals, such as bauxite, rutile and kimberlite are expected to boost mineral exports once production commences.

45. However, some indicators point to possible macroeconomic instability. The downward trend in domestic prices witnessed in 2002 was reversed in 2003. Year-on-year inflation rose to 6.5 per cent in June 2003, compared with negative inflation of 2.9 per cent in June 2002. This was due to a combination of rising oil prices, depreciation of the national currency and other domestic factors, which resulted in most of the components of the price index rising appreciably. For example, the food index, which accounts for 54 per cent of the basket, rose by 5 per cent. Indices for expendable goods and services, personal transport and medicine and medical care rose by 33 percent, 44 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. Government finances nevertheless improved significantly from January to June 2003. Revenue collection from customs and excise duties, income tax and excise duties on petroleum products exceeded their half-yearly targets, due largely to improvements in administration,

coupled with improvements in economic performance. Despite the improved domestic revenue performance and strong external financial support (evidenced by an inflow of 94,2 billion leones) in the form of programme support, heavily indebted poor country debt relief and balance-of-payments support, overruns on development outlays, higher security-related expenditures and expenditures to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have put pressure on the budget, resulting in a primary deficit of 2.3 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with 2.1 per cent in the first half of 2002. This has led to greater recourse to domestic financing of the budget deficit.

46. The first half of 2003 was marked by a relaxation of monetary policy. Broad money rose by 32.7 per cent, reflecting higher deficit financing as well as a rapid expansion of credit to public enterprises and the private sector. Prospects for the rest of the year indicate that the continuing depreciation of the leone coupled with the rapid expansion of money supply, and their resulting impact on domestic prices, pose a serious challenge to macroeconomic stability in Sierra Leone and need to be addressed immediately. This calls for stronger domestic revenue-collection efforts and more stringent expenditure-control measures.

VIII. Cooperation and coordination with other peacekeeping operations

47. As mandated by the Security Council, UNAMSIL has continued to support the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), as well as maintaining contacts with other United Nations missions in the subregion. Following the inauguration of UNMIL on 1 October, UNAMSIL supported the deployment of the Bangladeshi battalion to Liberia. It has dispatched a number of military observers on temporary attachment to UNMIL and recently completed two pre-deployment training programmes for UNMIL force headquarters staff. Also, there has been an exchange of operational information between UNAMSIL and UNMIL on a regular basis. Freetown continues to serve as a transit point for some personnel and reconnaissance teams en route to and from Liberia. In the same vein, professionals from substantive and administrative sections of UNAMSIL continue to assist UNMIL by sharing lessons learned and/or through temporary assignment to it.

48. A high-level meeting of the United Nations missions in West Africa was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone on 14 November, bringing together the heads of the United Nations peacekeeping and political missions and force commanders in West Africa. The meeting reviewed the general situation in West Africa as well as the specific conditions prevailing in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau. The heads of Mission agreed to set up a mechanism to facilitate a free flow of information between missions, as well as, based on the capacity of the respective Missions, operational coordination, including border patrols controlling the cross-border flow of persons and goods, in cooperation with the host national security forces. They also agreed to hold regular consultations at the level of heads and force commanders of missions. The next such meeting is planned to be held in Dakar in February 2004.

IX. Observations and recommendations

49. The stable security situation in Sierra Leone has continued to facilitate the consolidation of peace and the implementation of the benchmarks set by the Security Council in resolution 1436 (2002). Progress has also been made in the gradual handover of responsibility for the national security of Sierra Leone to the Sierra Leone police and RSLAF. The various training programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity of the security sector and measures taken to improve infrastructure and respond to logistics needs are encouraging. However, additional resources are urgently required to continue enhancing the capacity of the security sector. Both RSLAF and the Sierra Leone police need to quickly improve their overall capability and project a credible deterrence profile.

50. In this context, before proceeding to the last stages of the UNAMSIL drawdown, it would be important to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the security situation and the progress made in implementation of the benchmarks in order to determine whether any adjustments to the withdrawal plan are required. It is my intention to present recommendations to the Security Council, based on the results of such an assessment, in my next report to the Council, in March 2004.

51. I would like to appeal to donors to provide generous assistance to the Government in its efforts to meet the logistics and infrastructure needs of the Sierra Leone security sector. As some donors are for various reasons unable to fund security-related projects, it is proposed that they may wish to consider arrangements whereby the Sierra Leone Government itself would make additional provision from its budget to meet the basic security sector expenditures, while donors would offer supplementary budgetary resources, on an exceptional basis, for critical social objectives the attainment of which might otherwise be affected by the financial constraints.

52. The ongoing efforts to stabilize Liberia are already beginning to have a positive impact on the situation in the whole of the Mano River region. The recent visit of the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, Gyude Bryant, to the neighbouring countries, aimed at improving bilateral relations with them, is highly commendable. Leaders of the subregion are therefore encouraged to build on this development and to undertake measures aimed at enhancing dialogue among the Mano River Union States in order to revitalize the Union in promoting subregional security and stability.

53. The recent meeting in Freetown of the heads and force commanders of the United Nations peacekeeping and political missions in West Africa is an important new development. That forum will provide a framework for addressing the pressing issues affecting the subregion, in particular its cross-border problems. In this regard, UNAMSIL deserves to be commended for hosting the meeting and for its continued support for other missions in the subregion, especially UNMIL.

54. I remain concerned, however, about the numbers of foreign combatants in Liberia and the Liberian internees who still remain in Sierra Leone. As the peace process in Liberia takes hold, it is expected that the repatriation of these combatants to their respective countries and their expeditious reintegration into civilian life will become possible.

55. Since my last report, the Sierra Leone Government's efforts to assert its control over diamond mining have continued to yield good results. In particular, the steps taken to curb illicit mining and smuggling have generated considerable additional revenue from the sector. Notwithstanding this positive development, I reiterate my earlier call for the implementation of further measures aimed at ensuring the Government's full control over the diamond-mining sector. In this regard, the role of USAID and DFID in supporting a comprehensive solution to the problems of this vital economic sector is most welcome.

56. On 28 November 2003, I sent a letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2003/1142) in which I informed him of my intention to appoint Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania) as my new Special Representative for Sierra Leone. Mr. Mwakawago will replace Oluyemi Adeniji, who was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria. Mr. Mwakawago is expected to assume his duties in Sierra Leone in early January 2004.

57. In conclusion, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Security Council and to troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as to the Economic Community of West African States and donor countries, for their continued support for peace consolidation in Sierra Leone. I am also grateful to all UNAMSIL military and civilian personnel, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for their important contribution to the continued progress in the peace consolidation process in Sierra Leone.

Annex

United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone: contributions as at 15 December 2003

Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Sector headquarters staff*	*Total*
Bangladesh	15	17	1 406	65	1 503
Bolivia	6				6
Canada	5				5
China	6				6
Croatia	10				10
Czech Republic	5				5
Denmark	2				2
Egypt	10				10
Gambia	15				15
Germany			16		16
Ghana	7	9	777		793
Guinea	12	1			13
Indonesia	10				10
Jordan	10	4	119		133
Kenya	12	13	989		1 014
Kyrgyzstan	2				2
Malaysia	10				10
Mali	5				5
Nepal	10	4	800		814
New Zealand	2				2
Nigeria	9	14	1 543	61	1 627
Pakistan	15	16	3 792	42	3 865
Russian Federation	13	4	110		127
Slovakia	2				2
Sweden	3				3
United Republic of Tanzania	12				12
Thailand	5				5
Ukraine	5	4	636		645
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15	8			23
Uruguay	11				11
Zambia	9	5	820		834
Total	**253**	**99**	**11 008**	**168**	**11 528**

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to annex)

Notes: ***Authorized military strength***: 13,000 (not including up to 260 military observers).

Force Commander/Chief Military Observer: Pakistan; Acting Deputy Force Commander: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Civilian Police: Bangladesh: 2; Canada: 9; Gambia: 2; Ghana: 8; India: 7; Jordan: 7; Kenya: 8; Malawi: 4; Mauritius: 2; Malaysia: 5; Namibia: 2; Nepal: 11; Nigeria: 6; Norway: 3; Russian Federation: 3; Senegal: 7; Sri Lanka: 4; Sweden: 4; Turkey: 6; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 10; United States of America: 1; Zambia: 10; Zimbabwe: 10 (Total: 131).

Map No. 4132 Rev. 25 UNITED NATIONS
December 2003

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United Nations A/ES-10/254–S/2003/1202

General Assembly
Security Council

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24 December 2003

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 23 December 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit grave breaches and serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In the early morning hours of today (Palestine time), Israeli occupying forces, backed by more than 40 tanks and two helicopter gunships, carried out yet another raid in the densely populated Rafah refugee camp, killing more than eight Palestinian civilians and injuring more than 40 other civilians, many severely and permanently. One of the Palestinians killed was a nurse who was hit by Israeli fire while helping the wounded. In addition to the killings, Israeli occupying forces destroyed more than 10 homes by explosive charges and armoured bulldozers, leaving yet more Palestinian families dispossessed and homeless in the already desperate and impoverished refugee camp.

Further, yesterday, Monday, 22 December 2003, a five-year-old boy, Mohammed Naim Al-Araj, was killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus. The young boy was standing at the gate of his house when he was shot with a bullet in the chest. Moreover, in yet another tragic incident, a 15-year-old girl, Noor Emran, died of the wounds she sustained when Israeli occupying forces shot her in the head with a rubber bullet during a raid in the Balata refugee camp on 16 December 2003.

As the occupying forces continue to carry out such violent and deadly raids throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, using excessive and indiscriminate force against the civilian population, the death toll continues to rise along with the number of civilians injured and maimed and the toll of destruction and loss. In addition, the occupying Power continues to fervently pursue all of its other illegal policies and practices, including the confiscation and destruction of Palestinian land and infrastructure for its settlement activities and for the building of its expansionist wall; the imposition of severe restrictions, including curfews, on the movement of

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Palestinian persons and goods, including for medical and humanitarian purposes; and the arrest and detention of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children. Indeed, those illegal policies and practices have exacerbated the tense situation on the ground and deepened the humanitarian crises being faced by the Palestinian people.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 177 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000, which letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 December 2003 (A/ES-10/252-S/2003/1168), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of those war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since my last letter, at least 22 Palestinians, including children and women, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. The killing of those 22 Palestinian civilians raises the total number of martyrs killed since September 2003 to 2,688 Palestinians (the names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 December 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, from Friday, 12 December 2003, to Tuesday, 23 December 2003*

Friday, 12 December 2003

1. Kamlah Mohammed Ahmed Sawalha
2. Riad Fakri Araf Khalifa

Monday, 15 December 2003

1. Wael Sakker Abu Dahrouj
2. Yunis Marahiel Al-Bali

Wednesday, 17 December 2003

1. Mustafah Abdel Hameed Al-Hums (18 years old)
2. Hafez Akeli Dar Mohammed

Thursday, 18 December 2003

1. Jibril Salim Hassan Awad
2. Aladdin Youssef Aldewaia
3. Fadi Tawfiq Hanini
4. Mehdi Mohammed El-Bash

Sunday, 21 December 2003

1. Mohammed Naim Al-Araj (5 years old)
2. Noor Ahmed Emran (15 years old, died from wounds sustained on 16 December 2003)
3. Kamal Atiyeh Salem Khatawi
4. Zuhair Mahmoud Ahmed Awais

Tuesday, 23 December 2003

1. Khalil Mohammed Abdallah El-Kassas
2. Ali Hussein Al-Najar
3. Ayad Ahmed Al-Najar
4. Khamies Anwar Al-Ra'ee
5. Ahmed Al-Abed Al-Najar
6. Ali Atah Bahlul
7. Weam Riziq Moussa
8. Rami Azmi Al-Haq Ahmed

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,688.

United Nations A/58/665–S/2003/1203

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 30
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 26 December 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 December 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Altay **Cengizer**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

03-67359 (E) 291203

Annex to letter dated 26 December 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to the letter dated 23 October 2003, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 8 December 2003, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/58/621-S/2003/1163), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia", and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be underlined that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile for as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

It is obvious that the aim of those baseless allegations is to divert attention from the real issues prevailing on the island, in particular, the continuation of the all-embracing embargoes imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people and the totally negative position adopted by the Greek Cypriot administration vis-à-vis the confidence-building measures of the Turkish Cypriot side. Those counter-productive policies of the Greek Cypriot side, coupled with the recent revelations by the Greek Cypriot leadership regarding the devious tactics adopted by them in the negotiating process, naturally do not instil confidence in the Turkish Cypriot people that the Greek Cypriot side is sincere and ready for a new partnership with the Turkish Cypriot side on the island based, inter alia, on the sovereign equality of the two peoples in Cyprus.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2003/1204

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write with reference to my letter of 9 October 2003 (S/2003/1004). The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached fourth report from Australia submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex). I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-67455 (E) 160104

Annex

Letter dated 18 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

I have the honour to present to you Australia's fourth report submitted pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) John **Dauth**

Enclosure

Fourth Report to the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee

Australia remains a strong supporter of international and domestic efforts to defeat terrorism. As noted in previous reports to the Committee, since the adoption of Resolution 1373, Australia has put in place extensive measures to prevent the financing of, preparations for and basing from Australia of terrorist attacks.

Australia has developed a highly coordinated domestic counter-terrorism response strategy incorporating law enforcement, security and defence agencies. The Government has introduced new legislation designed to strengthen Australian law enforcement to meet our obligations under the UN counter-terrorism treaties. These measures are in addition to extensive and effective legislation which was already in place before 2001.

Australia's obligation to freeze terrorist assets under Resolution 1373 is implemented domestically through Part 4 of the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945* ("the Act") and through the Charter of the United Nations (Terrorism and Dealings with Assets) Regulations 2002 ("the 2002 Regulations"). Australia has made it a criminal offence for persons who hold assets that are owned or controlled by persons or entities referred to in sub-paragraph 1(c) of Resolution 1373 to use or deal with those assets. These persons and entites referred to in Resolution 1373 are listed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs through the Regulations. It is also a criminal offence to make assets available to persons or entities referred to in sub-paragraph 1(c). The penalty for these offences is five years imprisonment.

Australia has pleasure in submitting its fourth report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council on measures taken by the Government of Australia to implement Security Council Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001.

1.1 Question: Could Australia please inform the CTC whether lawyers, notaries and such other persons who deal in financial transactions are also obliged to report suspicious transactions?

Under domestic legislation in Australia, lawyers, notaries and other such persons are not currently obliged to report suspicious financial transactions. They are required to report "significant cash transactions" (that is, cash transactions involving A$10,000 or more).

Australia notes that while the Revised Financial Action Taskforce (FATF) 40 Recommendations require countries to oblige lawyers and notaries to report suspicious transactions, neither the previous FATF Recommendations, nor United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1373 specifically obliged lawyers and notaries to report suspicious transactions. Australia is in the process of implementing the Revised FATF 40 Recommendations.

1.2 Question: The effective implementation of sub-paragraph 1(d) requires States to have machinery to register, audit and monitor the collection and use of funds and other economic resources by charitable, religious, cultural and other associations with a view to ensuring that they

are not diverted from stated purposes, in particular to terrorism. Please inform the CTC of the legislative provisions and the enforcement machinery that Australia has in place in that regard.

As noted earlier, Australia has fully implemented UNSCR 1373 via Part 4 of the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945*. Australia does not consider sub-paragraph 1(d) to be limited in application to just charitable, religious, cultural and other associations. This legislation creates criminal offences for any person (natural or legal persons) who deals in assets of persons or entities listed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Australia regularly updates the list of terrorists and terrorist organisations under Part 4 of the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945* to ensure international consistency. Any amendments or updates to the list are notified to industry, and made public.

FATF Special Recommendation VIII on terrorist financing also requires countries to review the adequacy of laws and regulations that relate to entities that can be abused for the financing of terrorism. In particular, it requires countries to ensure that non-profit organisations cannot be misused by terrorist organisations. Australia is in the process of considering how to implement Special Recommendation VIII domestically.

1.3 Question: As regards the implementation of sub-paragraphs 1(a), (c) and (d) could Australia please provide the CTC with the following information:

a) The number of reports of suspicious transactions (STR) received by AUSTRAC;

Australia notes that UNSCR 1373 does not specifically require lodging of suspicious transaction reports (STR). Australia's *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988* requires 'cash dealers' to report suspicious transactions to AUSTRAC. It should be noted that 'case dealers' as defined by this legislation is a more limited class of persons than those covered by Part 4 of the *Charter of the UN Act 1945*.

Between 1 January 2002 and 7 November 2003, 135 reports of STRs were received by the Australian Transactions Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC). These reports were made by 'cash dealers' under the *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988*, but relate to names that match or partially match listings by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of terrorist individuals or entities pursuant to UNSCR 1373. A number of STRs have also been separately received by AUSTRAC where activity indicates possible links to terrorism, for example through a specific country of interest. These have been proactively disseminated by AUSTRAC to the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

b) The number of cases in which the STRs ended in prosecutions;

The *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988* precludes suspicious transactions reports from being used as evidence in court proceedings. However, the reports are important and useful financial intelligence which enable law enforcement agencies to focus their further enquiries in a manner which can lead to the commencement of prosecutions and the obtaining of admissible evidence for use in the prosecution. Australia does not keep statistical records on the number of prosecutions that have been launched as a result of an investigation initiated by STRs.

c) The number of cases in which assets were frozen and the value of the assets frozen.

There have been two cases where assets have been frozen under the Regulations, for a total of $2196.99. In one of these cases, assets were subsequently unfrozen after it was established that the entity concerned had no terrorist connections.

1.4 Question: With the coming into force of the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Act 2002 and in particular its Sections 20 and 21, is Australia still in a position to freeze funds and assets held in Australia by non residents and suspected to be linked to terrorism at the request of another State as stated in Australia's report to the CTC, dated 24 June 2002 (at page 3).

Yes. The procedure provided for in the relevant Regulations – the *Charter of the United Nations (Terrorism and Dealing with Assets) Regulations 2002* – to identify the persons and entities (and assets), also allows persons or entities identified by other countries as supporters of terrorism to be subjected to the Regulations at the discretion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The coming into force of the *Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Act 2002* provides for increased penalties for the holding or control of terrorist assets, and does not prevent the possibility that another State may request Australia to freeze funds and assets held by terrorist individuals and entities.

1.5 Question: Australia states in its third report that an organisation can be specified by regulation only if the Minister is satisfied on relevant grounds that the organisation is identified in, or pursuant to, a decision of the United Nations Security Council relating to terrorism and that the organisation is directly or indirectly engaged in preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the commission of a terrorist act. Could Australia please clarify to the CTC whether this precludes the possibility of specifying an organisation as a terrorist organisation at the request of another State? Could Australia also please indicate how long it takes to declare an organisation a terrorist organisation?

Persons, organisations or entities identified by another State can be listed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs for the purpose of the terrorist financing legislation (Part 4 of the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945*) with the result that any person dealing with assets of a listed person or entity commits a criminal offence (with a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment). This process can be done very quickly as the need arises, and Australia has responded to the requests of other States to listed persons and entities in the past.

Question 1.5 refers to the separate Australian legislation concerning proscription of terrorist organisations for the purpose of banning membership and other activities of that organisation under *the Criminal Code*, a matter unrelated to implementation of UNSCR 1373.

1.6 Question: At page 17 of its first report, Australia has stated that The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987 restricts Australia's capacity to provide assistance if it relates to the prosecution or punishment of a person charged with, or convicted of, an offence in respect of which the death penalty may be imposed in a foreign country. In the context of implementing sub-

paragraphs 2(e) and 2(f) please inform the CTC of the action that is possible under Australian law in the case of a person whose extradition is sought for an offence that carries the death penalty.

Australia can only extradite a person to a requesting country when the requesting country is defined to be an extradition country under Australia's *Extradition Act 1988* and the offence relied upon is an extradition offence.

Section 22(3)(c) of the *Extradition Act 1988* prevents the surrender of a person where the extradition offence is punishable by the death penalty, unless the requesting state gives an undertaking that the person will not be tried for the offence or, if tried, that either the death penalty will not be imposed or, if imposed, will not be carried out.

1.7 Question: The CTC would be happy to know whether Australian laws dealing with terrorism provide for special courts, special conditions relating to the grant of bail to terrorists and their supporters and the use of undercover operations.

Australia's usual criminal justice system applies to terrorism offences.

1.8 Question: With reference to sub-paragraph 2(a) it is noted that Australia is a signatory to the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. Could Australia please indicate to the CTC the steps it intends taking to ratify and implement the Protocol. In this context, what are the intentions of Australia as regards implementing the recommendations of the WCO concerning the above Protocol?

Australia is currently taking steps to ratify the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (the Firearms Protocol). As states and territories in the Australian Federal system control and regulate many aspects of firearms, their parts and ammunition, the Australian Federal Government is in the process of consulting with states and territories regarding implementation of the Protocol.

1.9 Question: The CTC would be pleased to have an outline of the Australian laws, rules or regulations relating to the transfer of sensitive technologies that could be misused by terrorists.

Australia controls the overseas export of military and specified dual-use technologies listed in the 'Defence and Strategic Goods List'. Australia's export controls are enabled under the *Customs Act of 1901* and executed through *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulation 13E.*

Australia also applies catch-all controls contained in the *Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act 1995.* This Act and its derived Regulations provide controls for goods, technologies and services not regulated by the Customs Act, ie. not listed in the 'Defence and Strategic Goods List'. The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) related controls regulate the export and transfer, both within and outside Australian territory, of otherwise uncontrolled technologies but only if there is suspicion that the export or transfer of these technologies may assist a WMD-related activity. The

WMD Act's jurisdiction extends to the transfer of intangibles and transfers via intangible means (for example, electronic, photonic).

The potential misuse of sensitive technologies by terrorists is not specifically evaluated in the assessment of export applications. Each export application is considered by relevant agencies on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the stated end-use and end-user. The processing of export applications, which are considered to be sensitive because of the stated end-use or end-user, includes a diversion risk assessment.

Australia is also a Participating State of the 'Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies'. In 2003, the Wassenaar Arrangement has considered the development of a 'Terrorist Goods List' to identify those dual-use technologies that could be misused by terrorists.

1.10 Question: The CTC would be interested to have the following information in the context of the effective implementation of the Resolution:

a) The number of arrests of terrorists and/or their supporters in the last two years;
b) The number of cases in which prosecution has been launched

There has been one terrorism-related arrest where prosecution has been launched.

This arrest and proposed prosecution is not for alleged offences under Part 4 of the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945* but for other terrorist related offences.

1.11 Question: The CTC would be grateful to know the progress achieved by Australia in becoming a party to the Convention for the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection 1991.

Australia is currently considering its position in relation to becoming a signatory to the Convention for the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection 1991.

1.12 Question: The CTC would be grateful to know how Australia has implemented the General Annex to the revised WCO Kyoto Convention, as well as the Standards of the World Customs Organisation with a view to ensuring the security of the supply chain. Australia states in the first report that the Advance Passenger Processing System allows certain private sector organisations, such as airlines and shipping companies to provide information about persons intending to travel to Australia in advance of their arrival. Does Australia intend extending this cover to all arriving passengers, as well as cargo in order to enable authorities to screen for prohibited passengers and cargo? Does Australia propose making it obligatory for carriers operating from Australia to furnish such information to the States of destination?

Australia is well advanced in the implementation of key elements of the General Annex, and the Standards of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

Australia is working towards achieving compliance of its reporting systems against the WCO data model. An enhanced cargo reporting system being introduced will require mandatory electronic pre-arrival reporting of import cargo. Export controls will also be substantially improved with electronic reporting of export consignments at the port gate as well as requiring consolidation of export consignments only at licensed premises.

The Australian Customs Service has formalised relationships with trading partners including through a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). An Accredited Client Program is being introduced for importers and exporters who can demonstrate they provide government with accurate and timely information and revenue payments.

Australia is also a leader in anti-corruption strategies and continues to contribute to regional capacity initiatives targeting customs administrations especially in the areas of integrity and risk management processes.

Other implemented and planned changes to improve supply chain security include: increased electronic reporting requirements for cargo; introduction of electronic signature technology for communications with business; enhanced border powers to enable the seizure of in-transit cargo; introduction of sea container x-ray facilities; and developing a Customs Cargo Security Strategy.

Australia's Advance Passenger Processing (APP) system is part of Australia's border management system. It is a passenger processing system and does not relate to cargo. It is currently madatory for all international passenger aircraft travelling to Australia to use the APP system to provide advance passenger information (API) on all passengers in advance of travel. By 1 January 2004, it will be mandatory for passenger aircraft to provide API data on aircrew using the APP system and for cruise ship operators to report both passengers and crew by APP. It is intended to extend APP to include the crew of cargo ships during the latter part of 2004.

Australia requires that all cargo, including in-transit and transhipment cargo, be reported to Australian Customs for screening and risk assessment. Under sea and air cargo reporting arrangements scheduled to come into effect in 2004 under the *Customs Legislation Amendment and Repeal (International Trade Modernisation) Act 2001*, carriers will be required to report cargo electronically at least 24 hours before arrival for sea cargo and at least two hours prior to arrival for air cargo. Carriers will also be required to report the number of empty containers on the vessel.

1.13 Question: The CTC would be pleased to be provided with an outline of the relevant provisions of Australian law that deal with the granting of Australian citizenship to foreigners. Is a foreigner who is granted Australian citizenship allowed to change his or her name? What precautions are taken to establish the true identity of a person before new identity papers are issued?

The *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* (the Act) provides that, to be granted Australian citizenship, a person must:

- be a permanent resident;
- be 18 years or older;
- understand the nature of the application;
- have lived in Australia as a permanent resident for a total of 2 of the 5 years immediately before application, including a total of 1 year during the 2 years immediately before application;
- be of good character;
- be able to speak and understand basic English;
- understand the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship; and
- intend to live in Australia or maintain a close and continuing association with Australia.

Under s15 of the Act, the final step in the acquisition of Australian citizenship by grant is the making of the Australian Citizenship Pledge.

Under s 14B of the Act, the Minister has the discretion to revoke the grant of a certificate of Australian citizenship prior to conferral, where the decision to grant the certificate was made on or after 1 July 2002. Revocation can be considered in the following circumstances:

- where, if the person were to make an application for grant of citizenship at the current time, they would not meet the requirements listed above; or
- where a person does not take the Australian Citizenship Pledge within 12 months of being granted a certificate of Australian citizenship without an acceptable reason.

A person may apply for Australian citizenship in a different name to the one that appears on their birth certificate or foreign passport. However, they are required to provide acceptable evidence of a formal name change such as:

- a Marriage Certificate;
- a Change of Name Certificate; or
- a Statutory Declaration made by the person together with evidence of common usage of the new name – for example a baptism certificate, Medicare card, taxation assessment notice, driver's licence or school enrolment.

Section 47 of the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* provides a broad discretion to amend certificates of Australian citizenship if it is considered desirable to do so for any reason. As a matter of policy, amendments under section 47 are usually only made where it can be demonstrated that the information on the certificate is factually incorrect, such as where an error has been made by the issuing authority. Where a person has changed their name after the grant of Australian citizenship, policy guidelines do not permit amendment of the name shown on the certificate or the issue of a new certificate in a different name.

Australian citizenship certificates are not documents of identity. They are a record that a person of a certain name acquired Australian citizenship on a specific date. Prior to grant of Australian citizenship, several precautions are taken to establish the true identity of a person, namely;

- completion of an application for grant of Australian citizenship which requires information relating to the person's identity and the identity of close relatives. This information is then checked against existing Australian immigration records on the applicant;
- a mandatory face-to-face interview as part of the citizenship application process for all applicants over 16 years of age;
- citizenship applicants must have a person vouch for their identity by completing a Proof Of Identity (POI) declaration on the application form, which includes endorsing a passport size photo of the applicant as a true likeness of that person. The person completing the POI declaration must be an Australian citizen who is employed in one of a number of specified professional occupations and they must have known the applicant for at least 12 months; and
- provision by the applicant of original documentation including:
  - birth certificate;
  - passport or travel document with which the person arrived in Australia;
  - evidence of Australian permanent residence; and
  - evidence of all name changes.